



STATEMENT

Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

Illegal Ontario-U.S. Border Blockades Must Stop

Disruption of trade and supply chains hurt all Ontarians

February 10, 2022

TORONTO – Today, Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, issued the following statement on Ontario-U.S. border blockades:

“The ongoing illegal occupation and blockade at the Ontario-U.S. border must stop. The Ambassador Bridge in Windsor is one of the most vital trade corridors in the country. The damage that this disruption is causing to our economy, to people's jobs and their livelihoods is unacceptable.

It is now the protestors who are preventing a return to normal after everything we have sacrificed fighting COVID-19 over the past two years, especially now that Ontario and so many other jurisdictions have begun to ease restrictions. ~~We cannot let a few disrupt the livelihoods of many. The protesters' message has been heard. It's time to end the blockade.~~

Commented [MJ(1)]: Deputy's edit

Our critically important trade relationship with the U.S. supports millions of jobs on both sides of the border and is worth nearly \$400 billion CAD annually. If Ontario were a country, we would be the United States' third-largest trading partner.

The Ambassador Bridge blockade is also having an impact on every automaker and parts manufacturers in the province. About 93,000 workers are directly employed in the automotive sector and keeping the border open is essential to their livelihoods, their families and communities.

The ~~Government of Ontario Government~~ is working with all levels of government to bring a swift resolution to this illegal blockade and dangerous disruption of our critical supply chains. ~~We look to would appreciate~~ the federal government's support to promptly develop a practical solution to this issue.”

Commented [MJ(2)]: Deputy's edit

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Two-way trade between Ontario and the U.S. totaled \$358 billion (CDN) in 2020, accounting for 53 per cent of the total merchandise trade between Canada and our neighbours to the south.